



TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL
BANGLADESH
Social movement against corruption

eWaves

February 2023 | Issue 02

OVERVIEW



Policy Stance

- Anti-Corruption Pledge Held Hostage by Political Degeneracy: TIB
- TIB Calls For Reconsideration Of Adani Power Contract In Bangladesh
- Ridiculing Hero Alam Discriminatory; Shows Lack Of Political Courtesy: TIB



Events

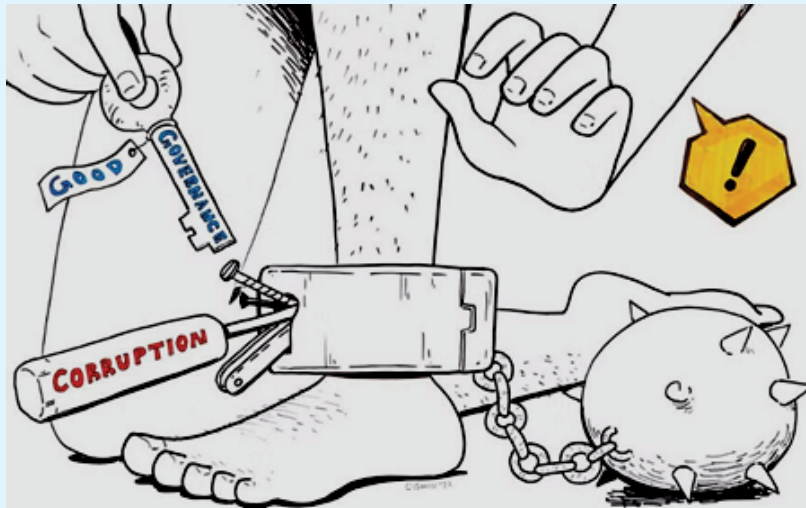
- TIB Honours Language Martyrs On International Mother Language Day
- Ekushey Book Fair: Celebrating Literary Heritage And Combating Corruption



CCC News

- TIB Expands Yes Programme To Central Women's University In Dhaka
- Sher-e-bangla Agricultural Uni: Students Flock To Anti-Corruption Events
- Empowering Citizens: Anti-corruption And Education In Focus At Citizen's Gathering
- "Public Hearing" Held To Improve Health Services
- Kushtia Hosts Successful Information Fair, Advocates For Free Access To Information

Anti-Corruption Pledge Held Hostage by Political Degeneracy: TIB



Dhaka, 24 February 2023: With the return of casino kingpins to politics, and the recent incident of verbal threat made by an MP to the Anti-corruption Commission, the government's anti-corruption pledge has been held hostage by political malpractice, said Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

In a statement, the corruption watchdog has described the recent incidents as a blatant use of muscle power at the institutional level, shielded by political protection, which has led to the 'political rehabilitation' of controversial leaders.

According to media reports, a former Jubo League leader and city ward councilor, AKM Mominul Haque Sayeed, known as Casino Sayeed, who went into exile for his involvement in the casino scandal in 2019, has returned illegally and reinstated in the Bangladesh Hockey Federation in the presence of its responsible officials. Other accused leaders of the two wings of the ruling party-- Bangladesh Awami Jubo League and Bangladesh Awami Swechcha Sebak League-- are also reportedly re-engaging in political activities ahead of the election and lobbying with top ruling party leaders.

The accused leaders are escaping punishment for their wrongdoings and making a comeback to politics without being held accountable. This is essentially a form of political rehabilitation, said the statement. TIB Executive Director, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, has expressed strong disapproval of these incidents, stating that they are a blatant violation of the government's zero-tolerance policy against corruption.

Additionally, Chattogram-2 constituency MP, Najibul Bashar Maizbhandari, also the Chairman of a secular Sufi political party named Bangladesh Tarikat Federation (allied with the ruling party Bangladesh Awami League), has threatened the ACC for bringing charges against his two sons in a loan scam worth nearly BDT 40 crore. TIB's statement emphasises that the threatening language used by the ruling coalition MP shows a total disregard for the rule of law and sets a dangerous precedent for using muscle power at the institutional level.

This situation suggests that perpetrators can enjoy impunity if they are associated with the ruling power. The Government and ruling coalitions must take responsibility to counter this sinister process of institutionalising muscle power and decriminalisation of politics, the statement concludes.

TIB Calls For Reconsideration Of Adani Power Contract In Bangladesh

Dhaka, 17 February 2023:

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has expressed serious concerns over a recent power agreement between Bangladesh and the Adani Group, calling it "vague and discriminatory." TIB has called on the government to review or cancel the deal, which involves the purchase of 1600MW of electricity from the controversial Indian company's power plant. The Adani Group has been accused of share and account fraud in the past.



According to TIB, the agreement could result in Bangladesh's power sector becoming dependent on the Adani Group if the deal is carried out, which could have serious consequences for the country. The watchdog has urged all parties to carefully examine and verify the terms of the agreement before proceeding, as the people of Bangladesh may bear the consequences of any actions taken.

Reports indicate that under the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), Bangladesh would require to pay three times the local price for electricity produced at the Adani Powerplant in Godda, Jharkhand. TIB's Executive Director, Dr. Iftekhharuzzaman, has criticised the agreement for ignoring the interests of Bangladesh and potentially favouring those of the Adani Group, which could result in the country's electricity sector being held hostage by the company.

TIB has also raised concerns over the coal used in the Godda power plant, reportedly sourced from Adani-owned mines in Indonesia and Australia. The entire process of unloading, transportation, and transmission of the electricity generated from the coal would be carried out through Adani-owned facilities, with Bangladesh bearing the resulting costs. TIB warns that electricity supplied through this project would be charged at an unusually high rate compared to other suppliers in the country.

As such, TIB has called on the Bangladesh Power Development Board and policymakers to revise the terms and conditions of the agreement urgently. The watchdog has cited information from reliable international sources, including Australian-based AdaniWatch, in support of its concerns and urged a collaborative effort to ensure that the deal is in the best interests of Bangladesh.

Ridiculing Hero Alam Discriminatory; Shows Lack Of Political Courtesy: TIB

Dhaka, 6 February 2023: No political parties, including leaders of ruling Awami League and opposition BNP, or any individuals hold the right to ridicule social media content creator and aspiring lawmaker Ashraful Hossen Alam, alias Hero Alam, for contesting in recently held by-elections, said Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) in a statement.

Expressing concern and disappointment, TIB said that the remarks of two veteran political party leaders ridiculing Alam in the recent by-polls, nakedly exposed the poor political culture of the country. Such derogatory remarks are 'discriminatory' and go against the spirit of parliamentary democracy, it added.



Alam participated in the by-elections for Bogura-4 and Bogura-6 held on February 1 as an independent candidate, but lost. Following the by-elections, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader made the comment that "Hero Alam is now zero," while BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir remarked that the Awami League was so helpless that they had to use state machinery to win the election against an individual like Alam.

In the statement, referring to article 66 of the constitution, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "If a person turns 25 and is not declared insane or bankrupt by a court or accept foreign country citizenship, and fulfills other conditions (of the constitution), he can be a lawmaker."

He further said that the practice of political insults and attacks is not uncommon in the country, but making derogatory comments that belittle the identity and social status of someone like Hero Alam sets a negative example and is tantamount to diminishing the aspirations of the people.

TIB Honours Language Martyrs On International Mother Language Day



On Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) participated in the Prabhat Feri (morning march) on 21 February 2023.



Employees of TIB, Youth Engagement and Support (YES) members, and members of Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) placed a floral wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar on behalf of TIB alongside its Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman to pay tribute to the Language Martyrs.



CCC, YES, and Active Citizens' Group (ACG) members also profoundly showed their respects to the Language Martyrs in different Shaheed Minars across the country.

Ekushey Book Fair: Celebrating Literary Heritage And Combating Corruption

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) is participating in the Ekushey Book Fair this year, as it has in previous years, with a number of new publications. TIB uses the platform of the book fair to raise awareness about its anti-corruption work.

The Ekushey Book Fair, also known as Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela, is an annual book fair held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It is one of the largest book fairs in South Asia. It takes place in February to commemorate the Bengali Language Movement and the sacrifices of those who died for the recognition of the Bengali language as one of the state languages of the then East Pakistan.



The fair features a wide range of books in Bengali, English and other languages, including novels, poetry, children's books, and academic publications. The fair attracts a large number of visitors, including students, literary enthusiasts, and general book lovers, who gather to browse books, attend cultural programmes, and engage in discussions about

literature and language. It is not only a celebration of the rich literary heritage of Bangladesh but also a platform for writers, publishers, and intellectuals to exchange ideas and showcase their work.

By participating in the Ekushey Book Fair, TIB is able to not only showcase its new publications but also raise awareness about its important work to combat corruption in Bangladesh. The fair provides a unique opportunity for TIB to engage with a wide and diverse audience, and to promote its efforts to establish transparency and accountability in government and business practices.

TIB Expands Yes Programme To Central Women's University In Dhaka



22 February 2023: International Bangladesh (TIB) expanded its Youth Engagement & Support (YES) programme to Central Women's University (CWU) in Dhaka, with an inauguration ceremony held on 22 February 2023 at the university. Professor Dr. Perween Hasan, Vice-Chancellor of the university, and Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB, jointly inaugurated the programme. Around two hundred and fifty students and teachers attended the event and took an anti-corruption oath.



To mark the occasion, the YES group organised a two-day long Anti-Corruption Cartoon Exhibition at the university aiming to raise awareness on the importance of ethical values and democratic governance among young people. Ferhana Ferdous, Director of Civic Engagement Division of TIB, and Lubna Zafrin, Advisor of YES Group, were also present among others.

Sher-e-bangla Agricultural Uni: Students Flock To Anti-Corruption Events

28 February 2023: Youth Engagement & Support (YES) Group, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University organised different events at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University on 28 February 2023 to create awareness against corruption among the students which included Anti-Corruption Cartoon Exhibition, Anti-Corruption Signature Campaign, Anti-Corruption Game Show and Campaign on Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2009.



Professor Dr. Md. Shahidur Rashid Bhuiyan, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Moderator of YES Group of the university, inaugurated the events while Professor Dr. Md. Harun-Ur-Rashid, Proctor and Advisor of YES Group, was present along with other teachers. More than 200 students and teachers visited attended the events. Students were orientated on RTI and they had hands-on experience infilling-up RTI application forms. RTI Flyers and stickers were distributed among the participants.

Empowering Citizens: Anti-corruption And Education In Focus At Citizen's Gathering

Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC) of Madaripur district and CCC of Lakshmiganj Government Primary School, Madaripur Sadar, jointly organised a programme on spreading awareness against corruption and the active roles of the citizens. Around two hundred citizens including public representatives, local residents, students, CCC and YES members



participated in the gathering.

Speakers at the event focused on the active roles of parents in promoting transparency and accountability in educational institutions. They also emphasised the importance of community monitoring by public representatives and the citizens to ensure transparency in service sectors. Besides, the speakers highlighted various issues including the school environment and infrastructure development, regular teaching practices, provision of sports equipment, organising regular parent gatherings, budget allocation, and implementation. At the end of the event, the attendees took part in the anti-corruption signature campaign.

Md. Mohsin Mollah, Assistant Upazila Education Officer, Madaripur Sadar, spoke at the event as the chief guest. Kazi Abul Bashar, President of School Management Committee (SMC), Lakshmiganj Government Primary School, presided over the event. Mumtaz Haque, Vice-President of CCC, Madaripur, was also present.

"Public Hearing" Held To Improve Health Services

18 February 2023: On February 18, 2023, a public hearing was organised by the Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC), Chakaria in partnership with Upazila Health Complex Authority to enhance the healthcare services' standards at Upazilla Health Complex, Chakaria. Service recipients, hospital department representatives, and members of civil society, including NGO representatives and journalists, attended the public hearing.



The hearing began with a welcome speech by CCC member Monkheri Rakhine. During the discussion, speakers raised several issues related to healthcare, including disrespectful behavior of hospital staff towards patients and their attendants, lack of cleanliness in the hospital, absence of citizen charter and complaint box, and the presence of brokers in the hospital. Dr. Sobhan Dutta, the Upazilla Health and Family Planning Officer, acknowledged that there were cases of negligence by hospital officials and employees. He emphasised the need for cooperation from all levels to provide better services and urged people to report any problems and irregularities directly to the hospital authority.

The session was moderated by Abu Bokor, Area Coordinator of TIB, while the President of CCC, Chakaria Bulbul Jannat Shahin, Upazilla Health and Family Planning Officer Dr. Shobhan Dutta, Residential Medical Officer (RMO) Dr. Nurul Azam, representatives of all departments of the hospital, service recipients, and civil society representatives participated in the programme.

Kushtia Hosts Successful Information Fair, Advocates For Free Access To Information

07 February 2023: Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC) of Kushtia in association with Kushtia district administration organised a two-day long information fair on 07 February 2023. A total of 31 governments and Non-Government organisations participated in the day long information fair. Cultural programmes and stage plays were held on the concluding day followed by a discussion.



While speaking as the chief guest on the inaugural day, Deputy Commissioner of Kushtia Mohammad Saidul Islam said, “Every department should ensure transparency and accountability by disclosing information.” The inaugural discussion meeting was presided over by Md. Rafiqul Alam Tuku, President of CCC, Kushtia, while Dr. H. M. Anwarul Islam, Civil Surgeon of Kushtia, and Noore Safura Ferdous, Deputy Director of Directorate of Women's Affairs, took part as special guests.

On the concluding day, the speakers said that the free flow of information is crucial for the progress of the country. The more an individual or organisation is receptive to information, the stronger it becomes. Additionally, they emphasised the presence of Designated Officers in every government office who are responsible for providing necessary information through proper channels.

Editor: Sheikh Manjur-E-Alam

Sub-Editor: Mohammad Tauhidul Islam, Kazi Mahdi Amin, Mathews Chiran

Visual layout & Design: Samsuddoha Safayat



Write us: Transparency International Bangladesh

✉ advocacy@ti-bangladesh.org 🌐 www.ti-bangladesh.org 📱 [TIBangladesh](https://www.facebook.com/TIBangladesh)